

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 04553 210818Z

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 IO-14 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-01 H-02 INR-10 INT-05 L-03

LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15

STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01

DOE-15 /131 W

-----068741 210825Z /11

R 210750Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3269

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS MANILA 4553

USMTN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, ASEAN, E

SUBJ: ASEAN PREFERENTIAL TRADING AGREEMENTS

REF: (A) STATE 18496, STATE 65446, (B) MANILA A-20, JANUARY
31, 1978, (C) MANILA 1355

1. ASEAN HAS SO FAR IMPLEMENTED TARIFF PREFERENCES ON
ONLY 71 PRODUCTS. THESE PRODUCTS, THEIR DESCRIPTIONS, BTN
NUMBERS, EXISTING TARIFFS, AND ASEAN PTA MARGINS WERE
REPORTED IN MANILA A-20. THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT IMPLE-
MENTED ITS PREFERENCES ON THE 10 VOLUNTARY OFFER ITEMS AND
THE FOUR EXCHANGED ITEMS WHEN PRESIDENTIAL DECREE 1268
AMENDED THE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS CODE, AND EXECUTIVE ORDER
NO. 492 PRESCRIBED THE NEW RATES FOR ASEAN COUNTRIES.
SEE MANILA 1355.

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2. THE 264 COMMODITIES WHICH UNDERSECRETARY OF TRADE
VALDEPENAS TOLD US ABOUT (77 MANILA 16128) ACTUALLY
CONSISTED OF 254 BTN CODED ITEMS. THESE WERE APPROVED
SEPTEMBER 27, 1977 BY THE 5TH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE
ON TRADE AND TOURISM (COTT).

3. ON DECEMBER 13, 1977 THE 3RD MEETING OF THE TRADE PREFERENCES NEGOTIATING GROUP (A COMMITTEE OF COTT) CONCLUDED AGREEMENT ON 253 ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR PTA PREFERENCES.

4. THIS TOTAL OF 507 ITEMS MUST BE APPROVED BY THE ECONOMIC MINISTERS MEETING WHICH IS NOW ENVISAGED FOR APRIL IN JAKARTA. FULL IMPLEMENTATION WILL NECESSITATE INDIVIDUAL ASEAN GOVERNMENTAL ACTION, A PRESIDENTIAL DECREE AND AN EXECUTIVE ORDER IN THE CASE OF THE PHILIPPINES. THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE HAS REFUSED TO RELEASE THE LIST OF 507 ITEMS UNTIL THEY ARE APPROVED BY THE ECONOMIC MINISTERS.

5. IN THE MEANTIME, IN PREPARATION FOR THE FOURTH ROUND OF PTA NEGOTIATIONS, THE TARIFF COMMISSION IS PLANNING PUBLIC HEARINGS ON 50 ITEMS WHICH THE GOP IS CONSIDERING OFFERING. THIS LIST IS PUBLIC AND WILL BE SENT TO ADDRESSEES VIA AIRGRAM WHEN WE GET A COPY. NEWSOM

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NNN

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